

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY L/ARA:DAGANTZ

APPROVED BY EUR:RDVINE

L:GHALDRICH

ARA/CCA:CGLEYSSTEEN (DRAFT)

NSC:SLOW (SUB)

S/S: JPMOFFAT

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 136728

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS -2

TAGS: CASC, CU, US

SUBJECT: LUNT CASE - PRISONER EXCHANGE

REF: US BERLIN 1109

1. APPRECIATE PFUND'S REPORT REFTEL. WE ARE PROCEEDING ON ASSUMPTION THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO SET DATE FOR FLIGHT/RELEASE TO TAKE PLACE WEEK OF JUNE 15. AS PROCEDURAL ARRANGEMENTS NOW NEARLY COMPLETE, ONLY LEAD TIME NEEDED IS THAT REQUIRED TO MAKE FINAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHARTER AIRCRAFT. WE ARE ASSUMING THAT VOGEL WILL ARRIVE WITH AIRLINE RETURN TICKETS FOR USE BY THOMPSON AND HIMSELF AND MODERATE AMOUNT OF MONEY FOR MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES, ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT REPEAT NOT BELIEVE SCENARIO - AT LEAST THE PORTION WHICH TAKES PLACE WITHIN THE UNITED STATES - LIKELY TO REQUIRE ANY SIGNIFICANT OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENDITURES.

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2. WITH RESPECT TO VOGEL REPLY LETTER, WE REQUEST THAT

FINAL SENTENCE BE CHANGED TO READ AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE:
I SHALL BE AT THE HAVANA AIRPORT WITH MR. LAWRENCE LUNT IN
ORDER TO BEGIN THE JOURNEY WITH HIM BY AIR FROM HAVANA TO
THE UNITED STATES, MENTIONED IN YOUR LETTER. END QUOTE.

DEPT WILL BE DISCUSSING HANDLING OF PUBLICITY WITH OTHER
INTERESTED US GOVERNMENT AGENCIES DURING THE NEXT FEW
DAYS. WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO LIMIT PUBLICITY. HOWEVER,
BECAUSE OF WIDESPREAD INTEREST IN LUNT'S RELEASE IN
CONGRESS AND WITH THE PUBLIC, IT IS NOT REALISTIC TO
ASSUME THAT FACT THAT THERE WAS AN EXCHANGE CAN BE KEPT
FROM THE PUBLIC. THUS USG COMMENT WILL BE NECESSARY AT
APPROPRIATE TIME. WE WOULD HOPE AND EXPECT THAT THERE
WOULD BE NO PUBLICITY WHATSOEVER PRIOR TO THE TIME
THOMPSON AND VOGEL HAVE LEFT THE UNITED STATES. WE ARE,
OF COURSE, DESIROUS OF KEEPING DETAILS CONFIDENTIAL.
FURTHER GUIDANCE WILL BE PROVIDED WHEN IT BECOMES
AVAILABLE.

3. CHANCES OF KEEPING THE PUBLICITY PROBLEM UNDER CONTROL
WILL BE GREATLY ENHANCED IF THOMPSON AND VOGEL LEAVE THE
US THE SAME DAY THAT LUNT ARRIVES IN US. THEREFORE, WE
HOPE VOGEL CAN ARRANGE WITH CUBANS FOR EARLIEST POSSIBLE
MORNING DEPARTURE FROM HAVANA OF US-CHARTERED AIRCRAFT AND
OBTAIN THEIR PERMISSION FOR CHARTER AIRCRAFT TO FLY TO
HAVANA THE PREVIOUS AFTERNOON. WE MAY HAVE DEPT OFFICER
MEET PLANE AT (MILITARY) AIRFIELD IN SOUTHERN US WHERE
CHARTERED PLANE WILL HAVE TO REFUEL, AND IN ANY EVENT
WILL PROVIDE ESCORT TO VOGEL TO ASSIST HIM FROM TIME OF
ARRIVAL IN WASHINGTON UNTIL HE HAS LEFT US, BUT DO NOT
REPEAT NOT PLAN TO SEND DEPT OFFICER ON AIRCRAFT TO
HAVANA.

4. WE CONCUR YOUR SUGGESTION PARA 5 REFTEL REGARDING
ISSUANCE OF VISA TO VOGEL. US MISSION BERLIN HAS BEEN
APPROPRIATELY INSTRUCTED WITH INFO TELEGRAM TO YOU.
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